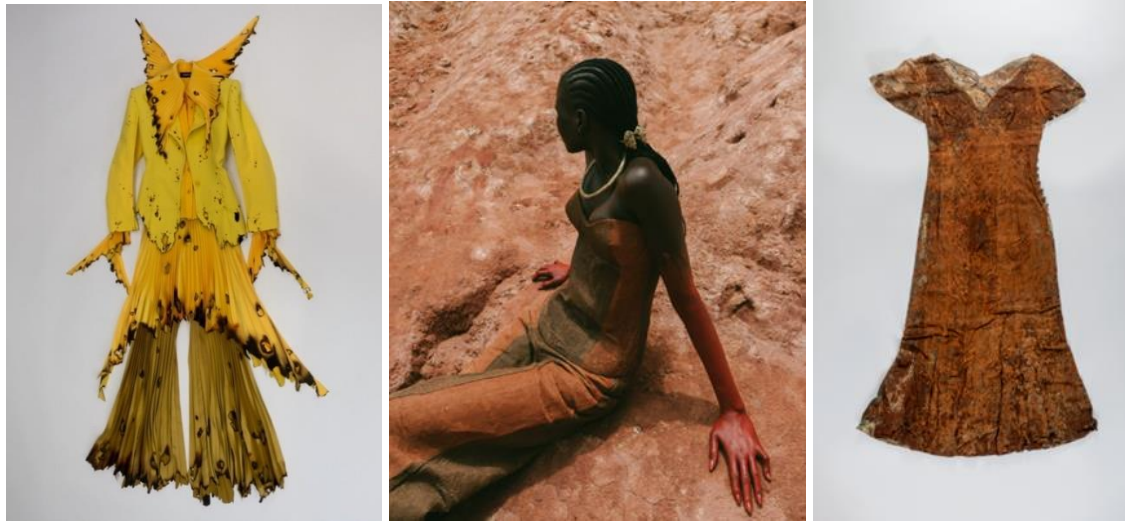


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barbican

Barbican Autumn 2025

Major exhibition *Dirty Looks* marks the return of contemporary fashion to the Barbican and Lucy Raven presents a new commission for The Curve



L-R: Robert Wun, *Yellow Rose*, Haute Couture Autumn/Winter 2024, *Time*. Photograph by Ellen Sampson; IAMISIGO, clay-dyed barkcloth dress, Spring/Summer 2024, *Shadows*. Photograph by Fred Odede, courtesy of IAMISIGO; Hussein Chalayan, Autumn/Winter 1994, *Cartesia*. Photograph by Ellen Sampson.

[Dirty Looks](#)

Barbican Art Gallery

25 September 2025 – 25 January 2026

[Lucy Raven: Rounds](#)

The Curve

9 October 2025 – 4 January 2026

For autumn 2025, the Barbican presents two new exhibitions: ***Dirty Looks***, London's boldest fashion exhibition exploring our love of the imperfect and the transgressive through the work of over 60 iconic and emerging designers, and ***Rounds***, a commission for The Curve by North American artist **Lucy Raven** examining the changing landscape of the western United States.

Eight years since the Barbican's last major-scale fashion exhibition, *Dirty Looks* marks the beginning of a new era of fashion programming, building on the success of previous shows including *The House of Viktor & Rolf* (2008), *Future Beauty: 30 Years of Japanese Fashion*

(2010), *The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier* (2014) and *The Vulgar* (2017). This strand of programming, led by Barbican Art Gallery curator **Karen Van Godtsenhoven**, will focus on fashion as an interdisciplinary and ground-breaking artistic practice, reflecting the changing landscape of fashion today and showcasing futures in which fashion can be harnessed as a positive creative force for its makers, wearers, lovers and our natural environment.

Shanay Jhaveri, Head of Visual Arts at the Barbican, said: *"Rounding off the Barbican's roster of exhibitions for 2025, we are delighted to announce Lucy Raven's commission for our iconic Curve gallery alongside the exciting news of a renewed strand of trailblazing fashion programming. In a commitment to London's thriving ecology of fashion designers, students and creative communities, Dirty Looks initiates a regular series of fashion exhibitions at the Barbican that will aspire to explore and celebrate innovation between fashion and other artistic disciplines. By focusing on a plurality of practices and established as well as emerging design voices from around the world, this programme aims to rethink what fashion's contribution to society can be."*

Please see full details of newly announced exhibitions below.

Dirty Looks

Barbican Art Gallery

25 September 2025 – 25 January 2026

Press preview: Wednesday 24 September 2025

In September 2025, the Barbican presents *Dirty Looks*, an adventurous new exhibition exploring how contemporary fashion has harnessed the rebellious, playful and regenerative potentials of dirt and decay.

Once considered the opposite of luxury fashion's ideals of beauty and glamour, explorations of wear and tear have emerged as vital sources for artistic innovation over the past half-century. They have been used to rebel, provoke and empower, but also to experiment with ornament and materials, celebrate indigenous perspectives and imbue clothing with deeper spiritual meanings.

Creating a dialogue that unites iconic and emerging designers, *Dirty Looks* considers the rich and varied ways in which fashion has embraced its "dirty" aesthetic. From romantic gowns which celebrate their own ruination and garments which elevate stains into handcrafted ornament, to clothing submerged in peat bogs or created by transforming fast fashion waste, *Dirty Looks* speculates on where beauty lies and what fashion can be.

Alongside pieces from over 60 designers including Alexander McQueen, Vivienne Westwood and Maison Margiela, the exhibition will include bespoke installations showcasing the work of visionaries such as Hussein Chalayan, Ma Ke, Yuima Nakazato and Bubu Ogisi of IAMISIGO. Connecting to London's thriving ecology of emerging designers pushing the boundaries of

fashion practice, the exhibition will also feature new commissions and installations by Paolo Carzana, Alice Potts, Michaela Stark, Solitude Studios, Elena Velez (New York) and Yaz XL.

The exhibition design sees the distinctive spaces of the Barbican Art Gallery transformed by Studio Dennis Vanderbroeck – known for its performative and cutting-edge designs for fashion shows and theatre – in a radical reimagining of the ways in which fashion is displayed.

Accompanying the exhibition will be a catalogue published by MACK, with essays by internationally acclaimed authors including Fabio Cleto and Stefania Consonni, Sunny Dolat, Caroline Evans, Akiko Fukai, Sandra Niessen and Sara Arnold, Ellen Sampson, Lou Stoppard, and curators Karen Van Godtsenhoven and Jon Astbury, featuring original object photography by Ellen Sampson capturing the intimate, tactile and bodily qualities of the garments in the exhibition.

The exhibition will be accompanied by an exciting roster of multidisciplinary programming, including a “Dirty Weekend” across the Barbican and an exclusive poetic performance. Full details to be announced later.

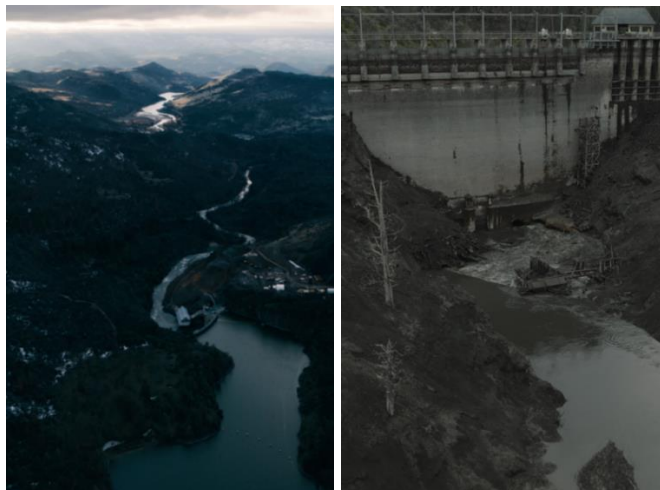
Featured designers in *Dirty Looks* include: **ACNE Studios, Miguel Adrover, Ahluwalia, Matty Bovan, Buzigahill, Paolo Carzana, Hussein Chalayan, Comme des Garçons, Piero D’Angelo, Giles Deacon, Diesel, Di Petsa, Phoebe English, Dilara Findikoglu, John Galiano, JordanLuca, Andrew Groves, IAMISIGO, Hodakova, Nina Hollein, Ivan Hunga Garcia, Ayumi Kajiwarra, Manon Kundig, Helmut Lang, Ma Ke, Maison Margiela, Yodea Marquel, Alexander McQueen, Issey Miyake, Hamish Morrow, Moschino, Yuima Nakazato, Louis Gabriel Nouchi, Rick Owens, Carol Christian Poell, Alice Potts, Paco Rabanne, Zandra Rhodes, Sterling Ruby, Marine Serre, Solitude Studios, Michaela Stark, Olivier Theyskens, Elena Velez, Vin + Omi, Viktor & Rolf, Junya Watanabe, Vivienne Westwood, Robert Wun and Xüly Bet.**

Lucy Raven: Rounds

The Curve

9 October 2025 – 4 January 2026

Press preview: Wednesday 8 October 2025



In October 2025, the Barbican presents a major new exhibition by the North American artist **Lucy Raven** for The Curve, comprising the premiere of a large-scale kinetic sculpture co-commissioned by the Barbican and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston. Further, the exhibition will feature a new moving image installation, *Murderers Bar* (2025), shown for the first time in the UK and Europe.

Raven's moving image installation is the third instalment of her acclaimed trilogy, 'The Drumfire', a series which explores themes of material state change, pressure, force, and cycles of violence in the formation of the Western United States. Previous works in the series include *Ready Mix* (2021) which examines the transformation of solid rock into concrete, and *Demolition of a Wall (Album 1)* and *Demolition of a Wall (Album 2)* (both 2022) which focus on extreme air pressure caused by shock. Showing at The Curve, *Murderers Bar* continues an exploration of the concerns that have underpinned the entire Drumfire series.

Murderers Bar focuses on the recent removal of a monumental, century-old concrete dam along the Klamath River in Northern California, part of the biggest dam removal project in American history. The dam, the immense reservoir behind it, and the river now coursing through both, are transformed through the duration of the work. *Murderers Bar*, in turn, finds its form from the release of water at such a colossal scale. Accompanying the film projection will be bleacher-style seating flanked by speakers for a quadraphonic soundtrack scored by Raven's frequent musical collaborator, composer and percussionist **Deantoni Parks**.

The moving image installation will be experienced alongside a newly commissioned monumental kinetic light sculpture, *Centrifuge*. Like Raven's moving image work, the piece speaks to themes of cyclical violence and unrelenting force, the legacies of which continue to shape the physical and imagined landscape of the Western United States today.

Following its debut at the Barbican, *Lucy Raven: Rounds* will open at the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston in May 2026.

Commissioned by Barbican, London and the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston.

Full Visual Arts programme at the Barbican in 2025:

Citra Sasmita: Into Eternal Land

The Curve

30 January – 21 April 2025

Noah Davis

Barbican Art Gallery

6 February – 11 May 2025

Encounters: Giacometti x Huma Bhabha

Level 2

8 May – 10 August 2025

Encounters: Giacometti x Mona Hatoum

Level 2

4 September 2025 – 11 Jan 2026

NEW Dirty Looks

Barbican Art Gallery

25 September 2025 – 25 January 2026

NEW Lucy Raven: Rounds

The Curve

9 October 2025 – 4 January 2026

ENDS

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Barbican press room

All Barbican Centre press releases, news announcements and the Communications team's contact details are listed on our [website](#).

Public Information

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www.barbican.org.uk

Please look out for latest information on tickets via our website.

Entry to The Curve is free.

About the Institute of Contemporary Art/Boston

Since its founding in 1936, the ICA has shared the pleasures of reflection, inspiration, imagination, and provocation that contemporary art offers with its audiences. A museum at the intersection of contemporary art and civic life, the ICA has advanced a bold vision for amplifying the artist's voice and expanding the museum's role as educator, incubator, and convener. Its exhibitions, performances, and educational programs provide access to the breadth and diversity of contemporary art, artists, and the creative process, inviting audiences of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the excitement of new art and ideas. The ICA is located at 25 Harbor Shore Drive, Boston, MA, 02210. The Watershed is located at 256 Marginal Street, East Boston, MA 02128. For more information, call 617-478-3100 or visit our website at icaboston.org.

About the Barbican

The Barbican is a catalyst for creativity, sparking possibilities for artists, audiences, and communities. We showcase the most exciting art from around the world, pushing traditional artistic boundaries to entertain and inspire millions of people, create connections, provoke debate, and reflect the world we live in.

We are an international arts and events centre rooted firmly in our own neighbourhood, collaborating with local communities and putting the City of London on the map as a destination for everybody. Central to our purpose is supporting emerging talent and shaping opportunities that will accelerate the next generation of creatives.

As a not-for-profit, we rely on the generosity of individuals and organisations, including our principal funder the City of London Corporation. Every ticket purchased, donation made, and pound earned supports our arts and learning programme and enables the widest possible range of people to experience the joy of the arts.

Opened in 1982, the Barbican is a unique and audacious building, recognised globally as an architectural icon. As well as our theatres, galleries, concert halls and cinemas, we have a large conservatory with over 1,500 species of plants and trees, a library, conference facilities, public and community spaces, restaurants, bars, and a picturesque lakeside oasis.

We are the home of the London Symphony Orchestra, and a London base of the Royal Shakespeare Company. We regularly co-commission, produce and showcase the work of our other partners and associates: the Academy of Ancient Music, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Boy Blue, Britten Sinfonia, Cheek by Jowl, Drum Works, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Serious, and We Are Parable.

For more information, visit our [website](#) or connect with us on [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Spotify](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Barbican Art Gallery and The Curve

Our visual arts programme embraces art, architecture, design, fashion and film. Many of our exhibitions explore the interconnections between disciplines, periods and cultures, and aim to imagine the world in new ways. Designers, artists and architects are our collaborators in this process.

We invest in the artists of today and tomorrow; The Curve is one of the few galleries in London devoted to the commissioning of new work. Through our activities we aim to inspire more people to discover and love the arts. Entrance to The Curve is free. Through Young Barbican we offer £5 tickets to 14 – 25 year olds for our paid exhibitions, children under 14 attend for free.

Our exhibitions are complemented by comprehensively researched catalogues and a full range of public events. In partnership with renowned museums and art galleries, many of our exhibitions travel to reach both national and international audiences.

The Barbican believes in creating space for people and ideas to connect through its international arts programme, community events and learning activity. To keep its programme accessible to everyone, and to keep investing in the artists it works with, the Barbican needs to raise more than 60% of its income through ticket sales, commercial activities and fundraising every year. Donations can be made here: www.barbican.org.uk/join-support/support-us/for-individuals/make-a-donation